Bombay and Shanghai on 13 December, 1991 in New Delhi. The Agreement came into force on the date of its signature.

(b) Arising out of this Agreement, the Chinese Consulate General in Bombay was formally inaugurated on December, 7, 1992 and the Indian Consulate General in Shanghai was formally inaugurated on January, 16, 1993.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Defend Kashmir Campaign by INCA

2288. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian National Congress of America (INCA) has lately spearheaded a campaign named "Defend Kashmir campaign" in the US, in reply to recent Pakistani propaganda unleashed by Pak-Prime Minister, pointing out that most of the disturbances in Kashmir were attributable to Pakistan's deliberate instigations; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, by way of lending support to the campaign by the INCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and answer will be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest.

Exemption from Visa Requirement

2289. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments of India and Pakistan had taken a joint decision to exempt curtain categories of people in both the countries from visa requirements for visiting each other's country;

(b) if so, what are the categories which have been so exempted and whether Members of Parliament have also been included in the said categories;

(c) whether Government propose to include the Members of Parliament in this category, if the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said decision as at (a) above has already been implemented; and

(e) if not, what progress has been made in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) The India-Pakistan Visa Agreement of 1974 does not exempt any category of people in both the countries from visa requirements for visiting each other's country. However, under the SAARC Visa Exemption Endorstment Facility which has been operational since March 1, 1992, Members of the National Parliaments, Judges of the Supreme Court and Heads of Centrally-aided National Academic Institutions, their accompaning spouses and dtpendon children below the age of 18 years are entitled to visa-free travel within the SAARC region after getting a visa exemption sticker affixed on their passports. The India-Pakistan Visa Agreement is being amended accordingly.

Assault on Indians living in Kuwait

2290. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in assaults and attacks on Indians living in Kuwait recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the so-called J. K. Human Rights movement held a seminar in support of Kashmir separatists there; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Some incidents of assault on Indian nationals in